

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09847 121338Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4644
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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9847

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC US IN
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE NEUTRON WARHEAD

1. THE AMERICAN TEST OF THE NEUTRON WARHEAD HAS
PROMPTED A SPATE OF PRESS EDITORIALS, MOSTLY CONDEMNATORY.
PAPERS SPONSORED BY POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE PREDICTABLY
FOLLOWED THEIR REGULAR POLITICAL LINES. THE CONGRESS
PARTY'S "NATIONAL HERALD" (JULY 11) IN EFFECT ENDORSED THE
SOVIET VIEW THAT THE US DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS
SUCH AS THE NEUTRON BOMB, CRUISE MISSILES, THE TRIDENT
SUBMARINE AND THE MARK 12-A COMPUTERIZED MISSILE WOULD
LEAD TO "A NEW SPIRAL IN THE ARMS RACE". THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION, THE PAPER CHARGED, APPEARED RELUCTANT TO
FULFILL EARLIER ASSURANCES ON NUCLEAR ARMS. THE
CONGRESS DAILY CRITICIZED THE JANATA GOVERNMENT FOR NOT
CONDEMNING THE TEST OF THE NEUTRON WARHEAD. THE EDITORIAL
CONCLUDED THAT THE NEUTRON WARHEAD TEST SHOULD BE
CONDEMNED BY ALL PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES."

2. THE CPI "PATRIOT" (JULY 10) CHARACTERIZED THE
NEUTRON WARHEAD AS REFLECTING "THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF
COMPUTERIZED CAPITALISM: TO HAVE A WORLD WITH LESS
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 09847 121338Z

MOUTHS TO FEED AND MAXIMUM PROFIT FOR THE BOSSES."
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW WEAPON, THE PAPER ARGUED,
WOULD ONLY LEAD TO A SIMILAR ADVANCE BY THE SOVIET UNION.
THE PARTY'S HINDI DAILY, "JANA YUG" (JULY 11) TOOK A
SIMILAR LINE.

3. THE HINDI DAILY "VIR ARJUN" (JULY 11), IDENTIFIED

WITH THE JANA SANGH FACTION OF THE JANATA PARTY, FOLLOWED THE JANA SANGH'S EARLIER NATIONALISTIC LINE IN ARGUING THAT EACH COUNTRY HAD TO DECIDE ON ITS OWN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITICIZED THE GOI FOR NOT DEVELOPING ATOMIC WEAPONS. THE US WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED IN PROCEEDING WITH THE NEUTRON WARHEAD IF IT DECIDED IT WAS IN ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS.

4. THE INDEPENDENT "ECONOMIC TIMES" (JULY 12) SAID THAT THE TESTING OF THE NEUTRON BOMB MUST HAVE COME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY PEOPLE COMING SO SOON AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW POLICIES ON THE PRODUCTION OF PLUTONIUM AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, THE PAPER WARNED, MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE SALT TALKS. THE EDITORIAL PRAISED INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE GOI WAS "TOTALLY OPPOSED" TO THE MANUFACTURE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.

5. THE INDEPENDENT CALCUTTA DAILY, "AMRIT BAZAR PATRIKA" (JULY 11) SAID THAT DECISIONS CONCERNING THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE NEUTRON BOMB WERE "A FAR CRY FROM THE PLEASANT WORDS MR. CARTER UTTERED IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS...HE SAID THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR THE GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS EVERYWHERE." THERE WAS A GULF BETWEEN SUCH SWEET RESOLUTIONS AND ACTUAL DEEDS."

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 09847 121338Z

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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